CHANGE IN EXAMINATIONS SYSTEM-MULTIPLE SET OF QUESTION PAPERS

3410. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : jWill the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have re-considered the need for change in examination system particularly in respect of multiple set of question papers which was introduced as an experiment by the CBSE in the Board Examinations of Class 10 and 12;

(b) if so, what are the details and what has been the Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that new examination system besides checking unfair means used by students for copying purposes, has resulted in the failure of thousands of children by schools anmialy after class 10 and 12 examinations as reported in the Hindustan Times of 10th December, 1993;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to improve the examination system in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELLA) : (a) to (e) The National Policy on Education, 1986 Stipulated adoption of certain functional measures to recast the examination system. Since the public examinations ate conducted by the Boards of School Education, the responsibility for adoption of the examination reform measures rests en them. The role of the Central Government is largely recommendatory and advisory in the matter.

As regards use of Multiple Sets of Question Papers in the CBSE Examinations, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi delivered a judgement on 10-9-1993 on a writ petitionfiled by a body known as Parents' Forum for Meaningful Education. In its judgement, the Hon'ble court directed the CBSE to issue a public notice in promi-nent newspaper inviting views on the use of multiple sets of question papers and to also seek the views of Principals, staff and Parent-Teachers' Associations of affiliated schools. The Board has accordingly, sought the views of all the interest groups by issuing a questionnaire to all the affiliated schools. Public notices eliciting the views of the general public on the question of multiple sets of question papers have also been published in the leading newspapers.

The use of multiple sets of question papers has succeeded in checking the menace of mass copying and use of unfair means in the examinations conducted by the CBSE, The use of multiple sets of quest on papers has not made any adverse impact on the pass percentage of candidates who appeared in the class X and class XII examinations conducted by the Board in 1992 & 1993.

LITERACY AMONG SC[ST AND MUSLIMS

3411. DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR : SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :

Will the Minster of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the dismal state of literacy amongst j the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and ! Muslims.

(b) whether Government have a special i programme for improv'ing such situat on; and

(c) what are the long term measures which will be necessary for ameliorating the literacy status of such deprived groups ?